DOCKET NO.: MSFT-2754/304830.01

Application No.: 10/736,333

Office Action Dated: February 7, 2006

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 1-20 have been rejected. Claims 1 and 5-14 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Claims 5-12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. The claims have been appropriately amended. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejections of claims 5-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, and 4 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Olsen (US 2004/014862) in view of Hohmann et al. (US 2005/0256965). It is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 2, and 4 are allowable over the art of record for the reasons set forth below.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of annotating the nodes with property information pertaining to the schema level of the nodes (see application, as originally filed, at paragraph [0043]-[0050], for example. Such annotations are neither taught nor suggested by the prior art.

Olsen describes generating an API from a schema, and describes that an element may support additional elements (paragraphs [0025]-[0026]). A data structure is generated that include elements and nested elements. However, there is no teaching or suggestion of annotating any nodes, or even the elements, with property information pertaining to their schema level.

Hohmann describes inputting data from XML and non-XML documents into an IP asset manager, and extracting information therefrom. The information may be stored or used to create further documents (paragraphs [0293]-[0295]). However, like Olsen, there is no teaching or suggestion of annotating any nodes, elements, or information with property information pertaining to their schema level.

Based on the foregoing, claim 1 should not be rejected as being unpatentable over Olsen in view of Hohmann. Thus, claim 1 is patentable for the reasons set forth above. Claims 2 and 4 are dependent from claim 1, and are therefore allowable as well. Withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1, 2, and 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

Claim 3 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Olsen in view of Hohmann and further in view of Fuh et al. (US 2004/0073870). Claim 3 is

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dependent from claim 1, and is therefore patentable for the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1. Fuh fails to cure the deficiencies of Olsen and Hohmann. Fuh generally describes annotated encoding of XML schema, but does not teach or suggest annotating nodes with property information pertaining to their schema level. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

PATENT

Claims 13-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fuh et al. (US 2004/0073870). Claim 13 has been amended to include the features of annotating the extended functionalities with property information pertaining to schema level of nodes in an XML schema. As described above, such annotations are neither taught nor suggested by the prior art, including Fuh.

Based on the foregoing, claim 13 should not be rejected as being unpatentable over Fuh. Thus, claim 13 is patentable for the reasons set forth above. Claims 14-20 are dependent from claim 13, and are therefore allowable as well. Withdrawal of the rejections of claims 13-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance. Early notification to this effect is respectfully requested.

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Date: May 3, 2006

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